



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE STATE BUDGET
LANSING



CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION

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DATE: December 7, 2007

TO: Local and intermediate school district superintendents
Public school academy administrators

FROM: Margaret M. Ropp, Ph.D., director, Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI)

SUBJECT: Updated Class of 2007 Four-Year Graduation Cohort Report Available for Review

In correspondence dated November 2, 2006, May 31, 2007, and August 13, 2007, the Center for Educational Performance Information (CEPI) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) notified you that, in order to comply with *The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* and to meet the national standards set forth in the National Governors Association (NGA) "Graduation Counts Compact," the state of Michigan must move to an accountability system for high schools in which a **graduation rate includes only "on-time" graduates who earn diplomas in four years.**

For the class of 2007, graduation rates will be calculated by tracking individual students who first enrolled in ninth grade in fall 2003, and graduated four years later with a regular diploma. As indicated in the May letter, preliminary analyses estimated a potential **10 percent decline** in the statewide graduation rate because of students who were reported at a grade level lower than expected, and thus may be "off-track" to graduate in 2007.

Report Now Available

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that an updated class of 2007 four-year cohort report is now available for review in the Single Record Student Database (SRSD)/Unique Identification Code (UIC) Application based on data submitted via the SRSD End of Year (EOY) 2007 collection.

In addition, the 2008, 2009 and 2010 cohort reports are available for your review.

Recommended Actions

1. **Work with your SRSD/UIC Application authorized user** to access the report through the SRSD Application.
2. **Carefully review the report** to ensure that the data your district reported to CEPI are accurate and complete.
 - a. Those student records coded as a "Dropped – MER" (Missing Expected Record) are likely data quality concerns. Check to see if those student records have been subsequently submitted with new UICs (submit a request to link UICs), or if they were reported with the wrong exit codes.
 - b. Ensure that the student Unique Identification Codes (UICs) are correctly assigned and/or linked. Accurate UIC resolution is critical for the graduation rate calculation, as it involves tracking students over four years (14 SRSD data submissions) using student UICs.

Report Notes

- This report is based on SRSD data from the fall 2003 through the EOY 2007 submissions. It will be updated again for the last time with fall 2007 SRSD data.
- The currently available report highlights the final disposition of students through the EOY 2007 SRSD collection. The exception is that the final disposition of summer graduates will be reported in the Fall 2007 SRSD Submission.
- The report does not reflect the business rules applied in calculating graduation rates (potential extensions, minimum enrollment periods, minimum number of students, etc.).
- The Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application (GAD) will be available in spring 2008 and will provide the final disposition of students in the 2007 graduation cohort and the resulting graduation rates.

Known Issues

As a result of the thorough reviews provided during the report pilot by volunteer district authorized users, an issue was identified in which some shared students may have been attributed to the wrong entity on this report. The specific scenario identified was a result of two districts claiming a student in the Spring 2007 SRSD Submission, one of which claimed full-time equivalency (FTE) and the other offered career and technical education (CTE) services. In the subsequent submission, the district that had claimed FTE in the spring did not submit records for those students in the EOY submission. Because the district providing CTE services *did* submit records for those students in the EOY submission, the students were assigned to that district's cohort report. Because FTE is not collected in the EOY submission, the state cannot assume that the CTE educating district was also not educating the students in core subject areas.

CEPI is working with MDE to develop and apply business rules to the final cohort report that will appropriately assign student records in the shared student scenario described above.

If you have any questions on the report, please contact CEPI at cepi@michigan.gov, or by telephoning 517-335-0505, and choosing option 3. If you need assistance in understanding the impact the new graduation rate will have on your district, please contact MDE's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at 877-560-8378.

CC: Secondary school principals, public school academy authorizers
SRSD/UIC Application authorized users